

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A synthetic grass turf marking strip, for visually marking lines in a natural grass turf surface when embedded within a shallow trench cut into the natural grass turf surface, said strip comprising:

an elongated flexible sheet backing, an underside of the backing comprising a trench bedding surface; [and]

parallel rows of synthetic ribbons, extending upwardly from a top surface of the backing a pile height sufficient to extend a selected distance above said trench, the rows of ribbons including a middle band of ribbons of a line color and a pair of outer bands of ribbons of a second color laterally adjacent the middle band, the second color selected to blend visually with that of the natural grass turf surface;

a pair of elongate flexible turf anchoring strips laterally outward of the outer bands of ribbons and secured to the backing; and

ballast means on the backing for securing the marking strip within the trench, the ballast means comprising granular material disposed between the parallel rows of synthetic ribbons.

2. (Twice Amended) A turf marking strip according to claim 1 [16] wherein the anchoring strips include bonding means for interconnecting with roots of the turf.

5. (Twice Amended) A turf marking strip according to claim 1 [17] wherein the granular material consists of particles selected from the group consisting of: sand; crumb rubber; gravel; granulated plastic; cork granules; styrene granules; EPDM rubber granules; neoprene granules; and perlite granules.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A method for visually marking lines in a natural grass turf surface comprising:

cutting a shallow trench cut into the natural grass turf surface;

embedding a synthetic grass turf marking strip within said trench, said strip comprising:

an elongated flexible sheet backing, an underside of the backing comprising a trench bedding surface; and

parallel rows of synthetic grass ribbons, extending upwardly from a top surface of the backing a pile height sufficient to extend a selected distance above said trench, the rows of synthetic grass ribbons defining a middle band of a line color and a pair of outer bands of a second color extending laterally adjacent the middle band, the outer bands serving to impede the growth of the natural grass from overgrowing onto the middle band and the second color selected to blend visually with that of the natural grass turf surface;

and placing a ballast means on said sheet backing and and between the parallel rows of synthetic grass ribbons to secure the synthetic grass turf marking strip within the trench.

19. (New) A method for visually marking lines in a natural grass turf surface comprising:

providing a synthetic grass turf marking strip for embedding within a shallow trench cut into the natural grass turf surface, said strip comprising:

an elongated flexible sheet backing, an underside of the backing comprising a trench bedding surface; and

parallel rows of synthetic grass ribbons, extending upwardly from a top surface of the backing a pile height sufficient to extend a selected distance above said trench, the rows of synthetic grass ribbons defining a middle band of a line color and a pair of outer bands of a second color extending laterally adjacent the middle band, the outer bands serving to impede the growth of the natural grass from overgrowing onto the middle band and the second color selected to blend visually with that of the natural grass turf surface;

wherein said backing and parallel rows of synthetic grass ribbons adapted for receiving ballast means to secure the synthetic grass turf marking strip within the trench.

20. (New) A method for visually marking lines in a natural grass turf surface comprising:

fabricating a synthetic grass turf marking strip for embedding within a shallow trench cut into the natural grass turf surface, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongated woven flexible sheet backing, wherein the underside of the backing comprises a trench bedding surface; and

tufting parallel rows of synthetic grass ribbons, to extend upwardly from a top surface of the backing a pile height sufficient to extend a selected distance above said trench, and defining a middle band of a line color, tufting a pair of outer bands of a second color to extend laterally adjacent the middle band, the outer bands serving to impede the growth of the natural grass from overgrowing onto the middle band and selecting the second color to blend visually with that of the natural grass turf surface.

21. (New) The method as defined in claim 20 wherein the strip is secured in the trench by first placing the strip in the bottom of the trench and adding ballast means on the top surface between the synthetic grass ribbons to secure the synthetic grass turf marking strip within the trench.